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has been "no use of political power to secure unreasonable advantages in hours and wages" (page 301); and finally, Mr. Sullivan quotes officials who favor disfranchisement (page 71). A question of this sort ought to have been thoroughly threshed out and the contradictory statements subjected to severe criticism. It is here that a joint committee of experts could be of great service.

Part II contains the more valuable reports of the experts on special undertakings. The operation of water works, gas works and electric supply are analyzed under four separate headings: general history and legislation; labor and politics; engineering matters; and finance and accounting. Here there is a mass of information which ought to be interesting to specialists, but it still remains to be digested. As an offset for these defects, the volumes are supplied with very minute indexes, which will enable a student to secure information on almost any point involved in the discussion of municipal operation.

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Efficient Democracy. By WILLIAM H. ALLEN. New York, Dodd, Mead and Company, 1907.—xii, 346 pp.

Mr. Allen has written a timely book out of a rich fund of personal experience. Its form and the invaluable lists of questions it contains may, unfortunately, limit its readers to expert social workers. These may read his admonitions, but they cannot accomplish much unless a wider public can be enlightened on the main thesis of the book. The most intelligent political and social servants have for some time known that we were acquiring honesty in philanthropy and politics, sometimes by herculean efforts, without securing efficiency. The illogical reaction from this situation has been the choice of the capable but dishonest. Mr. Allen's book should leave no doubt in the mind of any unprejudiced reader of the inadequacy of "goodness" as a social qualification. In all probability any one who takes the trouble to read the impressive array of facts, the elaborate series of proposed investigations and the suggestive ends to be attained will not misinterpret the meaning of efficiency. But those who might read such a popular article as Mr. Allen could write, and are satisfied with reviews of the book, could get justification for one of the most pernicious tendencies of the day.

In the name of "efficiency" it is now possible to beguile the solid business men and a majority of the voters of a city to elect such a ring politician as the present mayor of Chicago or of Milwaukee. Thoughtful men of affairs stand in rapt admiration of the expedition and

economy temporarily exhibited in the Chicago city hall, while the birthright of the people is sold behind their backs. The illegal deposition of members of the school board and the passage of a pernicious telephone ordinance are only two out of many instances of gross misrepresentation of the people perpetrated in the name of "efficiency." The merchants of Market street, Philadelphia, connived with the street railway company, abetted by the newspapers, to get a temporary solution of the transportation problem for their own advantage, to the permanent detriment of the city, in the name of "efficiency."

Mr Allen has written a hand-book invaluable for the guidance of all who administer public enterprises. It should be part of the equipment of every public official and charity officer. The use of his suggestions will revolutionize administrative methods. But he should supplement it with a book or article showing with equal skill, as he can, the necessity of having a democratic goal for all our social endeavors, in order that the sacrifice of efficiency to goodness may not yield to the sacrifice of goodness for efficiency.

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The American Constitution. By FREDERIC JESUP STIMSON.
New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1908.—259 pp.

The Teutonic theory of politics, which is really nothing but English middle-class radicalism in historical and juristic habiliments, has now received at the hands of Professor Stimson a new application in a treatise on American constitutional limitations, viewed especially in their economic bearings. As a critique of contemporary government and administrative policies by a lawyer of distinction in many fields of legal research and practice, the volume is not without value; but since the whole argument rests on a particular interpretation of history, it is the philosophy, not the conclusions, which principally engage the interest of the student. This philosophy is a distinctly English product, though Germany has made contributions to it. During the long struggle for democratic government in England the radicals evolved the notion that the ideal political system which they sought was but a return to precedents—and to the English mind, with its high contempt for abstract political reasoning, precedents are very precious—a return to practices of Anglo-Saxon times, with modifications in detail but not in principle. The history of this notion, which deserves to be written, is a long one, extending back at least to the early part of the seventeenth century; but it found its heavy documentation at the hands of